

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 294

By Black

A RESOLUTION congratulating the members of the National Defense Force in Sumner County upon their recent graduation from Citizens Emergency Response Team training.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's finest tradition is one of volunteerism, the noble act of an individual or group standing and acting on behalf of another; our State's nickname, "The Volunteer State," reflects the deep wellspring of concern for others that drives Tennesseans every day to volunteer their time, their energies, and even their lives to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in recognizing those groups of citizens who embody that tradition and employ its finest aspects in service to their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Second Brigade, Sixteenth Division of the National Defense Force, located in Gallatin, is one such group, a concerned collection of citizenry who maintain as their primary goal the protection of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Force is a group of volunteer citizens who train in urban and rural defense, search team, weather spotting, and police training, maintaining a permanent state of readiness so that, in the unfortunate event of a local disaster, they may spring into action with acumen and alacrity; and

WHEREAS, eleven members of the Sumner County branch of the National Defense Force, recently graduated from the Citizens Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training course held in Sumner County, a testament to the collective dedication to excellence of the local membership of the National Defense Force; and

WHEREAS, C.E.R.T. training was conducted over twenty-six hours in both classroom and field settings; it included education in basic first aid, weapons of mass destruction,

firefighting, and search methods applicable to both urban and rural settings, and a major emphasis was placed on the rescue of victims involved in heavy damage situations; and

WHEREAS, offering knowledgeable and competent instruction during C.E.R.T. training were Ken Weidner and Johnny Robeson of Sumner County Emergency Management; Danny Phippen of Volunteer State Community College; and C.E.R.T. instructor graduates Major David Dobbs, Captain Ron Brawner, both of the Sumner County Sheriff's Department, and Brigadier General B. J. Brown, each of whom is also a proud member of the National Defense Force; and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Force members who completed the C.E.R.T. training are: Staff Sergeant Amy Cotton, Staff Sergeant Steve Cotton, Private First Class Britney Russel, Command Sergeant Major George McVay, Sergeant First Class Gary Boykin, Second Lieutenant Richard Bagshaw, Sergeant First Class Sarah Martin, and Captain Ralph McCulley; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of C.E.R.T. training, the members of the Second Brigade, Sixteenth Division had amassed more than one hundred hours of training, establishing a elevated standard of excellence as the first non-police or non-fire group to have received C.E.R.T. training in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, graduation from the C.E.R.T. program symbolizes the unwavering dedication to service and volunteerism held by each member of the National Defense Force, and this group of intrepid individuals is worthy of the recognition of this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the graduating members of the Second Brigade, Sixteenth Division of the National Defense Force upon their completion of the Citizens Emergency Response Team training course and offer our sincerest gratitude to every member of the National Defense Force for their commitment to serving and protecting the citizenry of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.